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The Supreme Court stood divided over the combination of drugs used in lethal injections.

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New podcast show attempts to break down barrier between women and technology.

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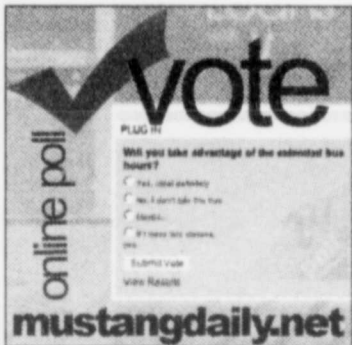
SPORTS



Football star considers future while team welcomes familiar coach back into fold.

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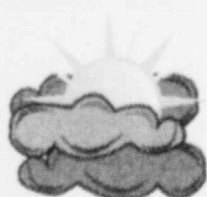
ONLINE



How far into the quarter will you make it before you stop reading your textbooks?

mustangdaily.net

TODAY'S WEATHER



Cloudy
High 57°/Low 41°

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Rose Float garners fantasy prize



The 60th Annual Cal Poly Rose Float, titled "Guardians of Harmony," won the Fantasy Trophy in the 2008 Rose Parade. The float was a joint project by the Cal Poly universities in both San Luis Obispo and Pomona and was also the only float in the parade to be completely designed, built, decorated and operated by volunteers.

STEVE SOUZA
COURTESY PHOTO

Police arrest bank robbery suspect

Jennifer Hall
MUSTANG DAILY

The San Luis Obispo Police Department arrested the suspect of a bank robbery Friday after an investigation that led them to Fresno.

Gregory Raymond Romero, 45, allegedly robbed the Rabobank on Santa Rosa Street Dec. 31 at 11:53 a.m.

The suspect reportedly threatened to harm bank employees if they did not cooperate with his demands, then fled the scene before police arrived.

The suspect was identified as a Santa Maria resident after a photograph was captured by a bank camera and broadcast by local media. However, the suspect was not home when officers arrived to give him a warrant. An extensive search of the area was inconclusive.

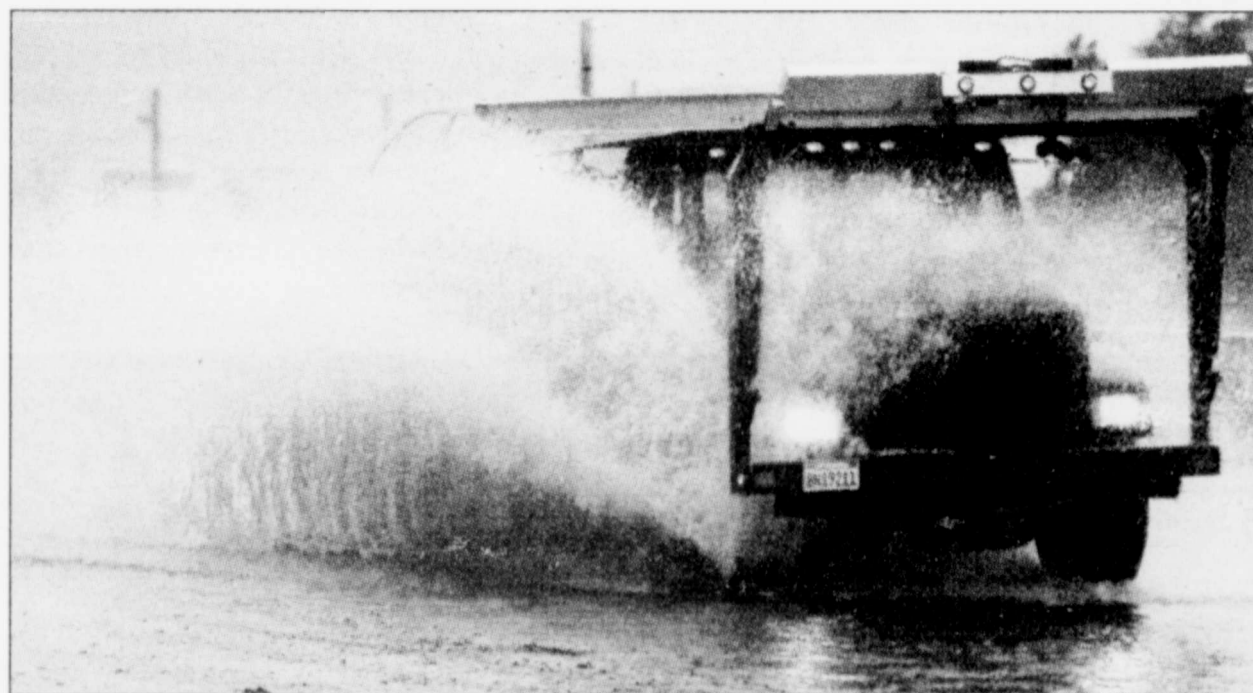
SLOPD received information Jan. 3 that the suspect was seen in the Fresno area. With the help of the Fresno Police Department, the suspect was found Jan. 4, in his vehicle and was arrested without incident and later booked into the San Luis Obispo County Jail. No weapons were found in his vehicle or on his person.

However, officers discovered \$3,500 in Romero's pocket and at least one of the bills matched those stolen from the Rabobank. The total amount stolen from the bank remains undisclosed.

SLOPD does not think Romero is the infamous "Mutton Chop Bandit," who is wanted in connection with numerous Central Coast bank robberies that have occurred over the past six months, Lt. Bill Proll said.

The "Bandit," so-named because of his fake sideburns and mustache disguise, is the suspect in the Aug. 6 robbery at the Washington Mutual Bank on Madonna Road in San Luis Obispo, the Aug. 13 robbery at the Mid-State Bank & Trust in Nipomo, the Sept. 12 robbery at Mid-State Bank & Trust in Lompoc, the Nov. 29 robbery of the First Bank of San Luis Obispo on Higuera Street and an additional bank robbery in Santa Maria.

SLOPD and the FBI will continue their investigation for the "Bandit," Proll said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A truck makes its way through a flooded lane near Sausalito, Calif. A new bill will require cities and counties in the Central Valley to follow new flood protection requirements.

Car smoking ban, minimum wage hike among new state laws

Steve Lawrence
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — Lighting up behind the wheel will become an expensive habit in California if there are kids in the car.

Since Jan. 1, motorists can now be hit with fines of up to \$100 for smoking in a vehicle containing a child.

The ban is among hundreds of changes in state law that took effect with the new year. Others include the second increase in the minimum wage in 12 months and measures to require more efficient lights, promote solar water heaters and ease the way for more homeless shelters.

The smoking ban is the latest attempt by the state to shield people from the health risks created by breathing secondhand smoke. California already prohibits smoking in enclosed workplaces, including taverns and restaurants, and within 25 feet of a playground.

Two other states — Arkansas and Louisiana — have laws that bar smoking in vehicles containing children. The Arkansas statute applies to children under age 6 or 60 pounds. The Louisiana law covers children under age 13.

California's ban prohibits smoking in a vehicle containing anyone under 18, but the traffic stop would have to be made for another offense, such as speeding, before a vehicle's occupant could be cited for smoking.

The measure's author, state Sen. Jenny Oropeza, D-Long Beach, agreed to that concession to assure its approval by the state Assembly, said her spokesman, Ray Sotero.

Another change in law that will limit motorists' activities — a ban on the use of handheld cell phones while driving — takes effect July 1. For drivers under the age of 18, the prohibition extends even to handsfree use of cell phones.

The new year also brought a pay raise for the 1.4 million California workers who make minimum wage.

Their hourly pay increased by 50 cents to \$8, making them the second highest paid minimum wage workers in the country, along with workers in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts minimum wage also reached \$8 an hour on Jan. 1, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Washington state, which automatically adjusts its minimum wage each year to keep

see Laws, page 2

Laws

continued from page 1

pace with inflation, will have the highest at \$8.07 an hour.

The California increase is part of a two-step adjustment approved by lawmakers in 2006. The wage jumped from \$6.75 to \$7.50 last Jan. 1.

Here are some of the other laws that took effect with the start of the new year:

LIGHTS, WATER — Legislation by Assemblyman Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael, gives the California Energy Commission until the end of 2008 to develop tougher efficiency standards for general purpose lights. Other Huffman bills authorize a \$250 million subsidy program to encourage installation of solar water heaters and require the Energy Commission to establish water-efficiency standards for the design of new buildings.

HOMELESS SHELTERS — A new law written by Sen. Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, is intended to remove roadblocks for homeless shelters by requiring cities and counties to designate areas where shelters can be located without obtaining a conditional use permit.

IDENTIFICATION DEVICES — Legislation by Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, prohibits an employer or anyone else from requiring a person to have a radio frequency identification device inserted under the skin. The devices, about the size of a rice grain, can be used to track and transmit personal information about the user.

FLOOD CONTROL — Cities and counties could be forced to cover a share of the damage caused by flooding if they approve new development without considering flood risks, under legislation by Assemblyman Dave Jones, D-Sacramento. A related bill by Sen. Mike Machado, D-Linden, will require cities and counties in the flood-prone Central Valley to follow new flood protection requirements in making land-use decisions.

GANG PARENTING — Courts could require the parents or guardians of gang members to attend parenting classes under legislation by Assemblyman Tony Mendoza, D-Artesia, that attempts to prevent first-time juvenile offenders from committing additional crimes.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS — Legislation by Assemblyman Charles Calderon, D-Whittier, prevents cities and counties from requiring landlords to serve as surrogate border patrol agents by obtaining and reporting the immigration status of their tenants. The measure also prohibits ordinances preventing landlords from renting to illegal immigrants.

HIV TESTING — A law written by Assemblywoman Patty Berg, D-Eureka, makes it more likely that people will be routinely tested for HIV and AIDS. The measure drops a requirement that patients fill out a form to have the tests. They only would have to give a doctor verbal consent to add HIV to other conditions for which they are being tested.

SPERM CLEANSING — Legislation by Sen. Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, allows sperm from a man with HIV to be used to artificially inseminate a wife or partner who does not have the disease if the woman consents and the sperm is processed to minimize the possibility of infection.

IRAN INVESTMENTS — The state's two giant public pension funds, the California Public Employees' Retirement System and the California State Teachers' Retirement System, will be prohibited from investing in companies that have defense — or nuclear energy — related business with Iran. The bill is by Assemblyman Joel Anderson, R-La Mesa.

PHONY MUSIC — Assemblyman Anthony Portantino, D-La Canada Flintridge, is the author of a law that attempts to ensure that music fans who buy tickets to oldies concerts are not victims of deceptive advertising. The legislation requires performing groups to meet at least one of several standards to be able to legally use the name from the groups' recording days. An example: The group must include at least one member who has the legal right to use the name. Bands also can avoid lawsuits by acknowledging they are a salute or tribute to the original recording group and had a name that did not confuse ticket buyers.

GIFT CERTIFICATES — A law written by Sen. Ellen Corbett, D-San Leandro, allows shoppers to cash in gift certificates that have less than \$10 left in value. Consumer advocates say that will prevent stores from benefiting from an "undeserved bonanza" generated by unexhausted gift certificates that stores have refused to trade for cash.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of the Writers Guild of America picket in Los Angeles on Monday.

Golden Globes eyeing new format after actors threaten boycott

Lynn Elber

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The Hollywood Foreign Press Association said yesterday that the traditional Golden Globe Awards ceremony has been canceled and will be replaced with a news conference format.

The move came after striking writers threatened to picket the event. "We are all very disappointed that our traditional awards ceremony will not take place this year and that millions of viewers worldwide will be deprived of seeing many of their favorite stars celebrating 2007's outstanding achievements in motion pictures and television," said Jorge Camara, president of The Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

"We take some comfort, however, in knowing that this year's Golden Globe Award recipients will be announced on the date originally scheduled," he said.

The show had been set to air on Sunday.

Faced with a threat by actors to boycott the ceremony rather than cross picket lines, the association and NBC were forced to adopt another approach for the ceremony that provides the unofficial kickoff to the Hollywood awards season.

The association will forgo the typical network payment it receives for the broadcast, reported to be \$5 million, said a person close to the show who was not authorized to comment and requested anonymity.

But NBC will have exclusive electronic rights to the show and will be able to sell advertising for it, the person said.

respect slo BRO

New Year's Resolution OF THE WEEK:

WEEK 1

Introduce yourself to your neighbors, you never know when you might need to borrow a cup of sugar, eggs, a shovel, a lawn mower, or some old clothes from the 70's for a theme party. You get the idea; neighbors can come in handy sometimes. So be the kind of neighbor you wouldn't mind lending stuff to.

For more party planning tips visit www.respectslobro.com

Feeling like crap?

Get the day's top stories
and more (from home) at
www.mustangdaily.net



resident/community ADVISOR SELECTION

WINTER interest meeting

Monday, January 7th
Fremont Hall 7:30 PM
Muir Hall 9:00pm

Cerro Vista Community Center
9:00 PM

Tuesday, January 8th
UU 216 5:00pm
Tenaya Hall 8:30pm

Sequoia Hall 9:00pm
Santa Lucia/
North Mountain 9:30 PM

Wednesday, January 9th
Sierra Madre 8:30pm
Trinity Hall 9:30 pm

Yosemite Hall
9:00pm

**Thursday, January
10th & 17th**
UU Hour Table
11am - 12pm

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WORD ON THE STREET

"What was the best thing you did over break?"

Compiled and photographed by Christina Casci



"Visited my brothers in Walnut Creek and Simi Valley."

— Kim Rudnick,
graphic communication
senior

"Where da trout at?
Las Vegas!"

— Nicole Weiner, art
and design senior and
Kay Rathe, civil
engineering senior



"I went skydiving."

— Molly Choma,
art and design senior



"Went to Tahoe with
my roommates and
got stuck in a snow-
storm."

— Brittany Gavin,
biology junior



State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Striking Hollywood writers have reached a deal with Tom Cruise's production outfit United Artists Films to resume working on films while the strike continues against other studios.

The deal announced Monday was the first reached with big-screen producers by the Writers Guild of America, which has been on strike since November. Terms were not disclosed.

...

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Television's "Dr. Phil" McGraw has pulled the plug on plans for a one-hour show that was to examine Britney Spears' latest public meltdown.

In a statement posted Monday on his Web site, McGraw said the 26-year-old pop star's situation was "too intense" for him to go forward with the show. He didn't say whether he planned to re-schedule.

Spears was hospitalized Thursday night after a child custody dispute with ex-husband Kevin Federline resulted in an hours-long standoff with police. On Friday, a court commissioner gave sole physical and legal custody of 1-year-old Jayden James and 2-year-old Sean Preston to Federline.

Briefs

National

CORAOPOLIS, Pa. (AP) — A high school gym teacher accused of sending nude photos of herself to a 14-year-old freshman at her school has admitted to having sex with the boy, police said Monday.

Beth Ann Chester, a 26-year-old health and physical education teacher at Moon Area High School in suburban Pittsburgh, was jailed on charges of sexual abuse of children, corruption of minors and related counts for sending the teen nude pictures and salacious text messages, authorities said.

...

CONEJOS, Colo. (AP) — Six snowmobilers missing in the mountains for 2½ days while a howling blizzard swirled around them were rescued Monday — hungry and cold but unhurt — after taking shelter in a cozy cabin and calling 911 on a cell phone when the storm eased up.

The group, consisting of two couples and two teenagers, broke into the cabin, where they huddled around a gas grill and dined on popcorn and chicken bouillon they found inside.

"We counted 18 blankets. We were cozy," 31-year-old Shannon Groen said after rescue crews on snowmobiles brought the group to safety.

International

BAGHDAD (AP) — The head of a key U.S.-backed Sunni group was killed Monday in a double-suicide bombing that claimed at least 11 other lives and highlighted the deadly precision of attacks on Sunni leaders choosing to oppose al-Qaida in Iraq.

The main target — a former police colonel who led resistance to al-Qaida in one of its former Baghdad strongholds — was first embraced by a bomber posing as a friend. Seconds later, the attacker stepped back and triggered an explosion, a witness said.

A suicide car bomber then struck as rescuers tried to evacuate the wounded.

...

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Eight tribesmen allied with the government against al-Qaida-linked foreign fighters were killed in northwest Pakistan, authorities said Monday.

No one took responsibility for the attacks in the South Waziristan region, but those killed were loyal to pro-government tribal leader Maulvi Nazir, a rival of local Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud. The government has accused Mehsud of involvement in the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto as well as a string of other attacks.



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Supreme Court appears divided over drugs used in lethal injections

Mark Sherman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Supreme Court appeared divided Monday over whether the drugs commonly injected to execute prisoners may cause excruciating pain in violation of the Constitution.

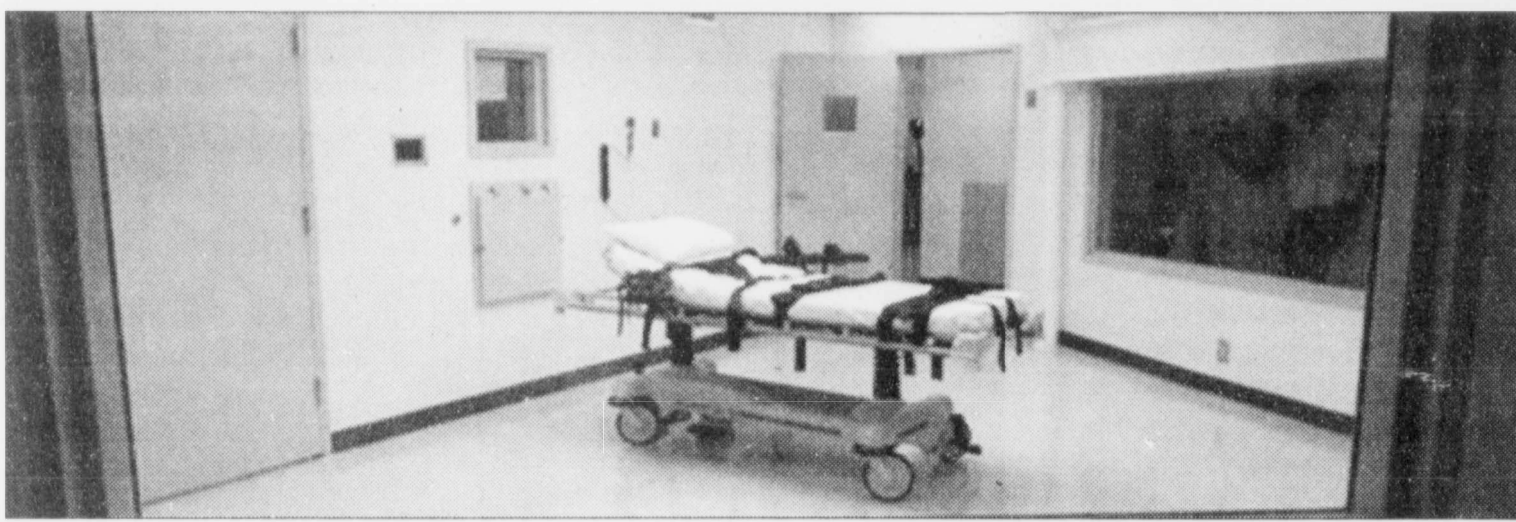
Several justices indicated a willingness to preserve the three-drug cocktail that is authorized by three dozen states that allow executions. Such a decision would allow lethal injections, on hold since late September, to resume quickly.

Justice Antonin Scalia said states have been careful to adopt procedures that do not seek to inflict pain and should not be barred from carrying out executions, even if prison officials sometimes make mistakes in administering drugs.

"There is no painless requirement" in the Constitution, Scalia said.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito also indicated their support for the states' procedures.

Other members of the court, who have raised questions about lethal injection in the past, said they are both-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Death-row inmates are asking the Supreme Court to order states to use different drugs or tighten their procedures to reduce the risk that prisoners will suffer excruciating pain during their executions.

ered by the procedures used in Kentucky and elsewhere in which three drugs are administered in succession to knock out, paralyze and kill prisoners.

The argument against the three-drug protocol is that if the initial anesthetic does not take hold, a third drug that stops the heart can cause excruciating pain. The second drug, meanwhile, paralyzes the prisoner, rendering him unable to express his

discomfort.

"I'm terribly troubled by the fact that the second drug is what seems to cause all the risk of excruciating pain and seems to be almost totally unnecessary," said Justice John Paul Stevens.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, who often plays a decisive role on the closely divided court, gave little indication of his views.

The case before the court comes from Kentucky, in which two death-

row inmates are not asking to be spared execution or death by injection. Instead, they want the court to order a switch to a single drug, a barbiturate, that causes no pain and can be given in a large-enough dose to cause death.

At the very least, they are asking for tighter controls on the three-drug process to ensure that the anesthetic is given properly. A decision should come by late June.

Justice Stephen Breyer seemed to capture the discomfort of the court, which has upheld the constitutionality of capital punishment.

"There is a risk of human error generally where you're talking about the death penalty, and this may be one extra problem," Breyer said. "But the question here is can we say that there is a more serious problem here than with other execution methods?"

Donald Verrilli, a Washington lawyer who is a veteran of capital cases, offered the court examples of executions in California and North Carolina in which inmates appeared to suffer pain as they were being put to death.

He said the best way to avoid repetition was to switch to a single drug, as veterinarians commonly do in putting animals to sleep.

Roy Englert, who typically argues business cases before the Supreme Court, said on behalf of Kentucky that the one-drug method has never been used in executions. The Bush administration also took Kentucky's side.

Englert also defended the state's practices as humane.

Career Services

Winter
2008

Events & Workshops

- J** Thursday, January 10
Resume Clinic
Bring your resume to have it reviewed!
11 - noon, Career Services, 124/117
- A** Tuesday, January 15
Interview Skills Workshop
11 - noon, Career Services, 124/224
- N** Tuesday, January 15
Wi-Hire Workshop
Leverage technology, brand yourself online, and get that job!
11 - noon, Business Silo, 03/213
- U** Wednesday, January 16
Careers in Sales
5 - 6, Bishop's Lounge, University Union 208
- A** Wednesday & Thursday, January 16 & 17
Winter Job Fair
Networking 9:30 - 2, Interviews 2 - 5:30
Chumash Auditorium
- R** Wednesday, January 23
Working Lunches - Workplace Etiquette: Email to Emotions
noon - 1, Career Services, 124/224
- Y** Thursday, January 24
Engineering Careers in Sustainability
11 - 1:30, Advanced Technology Lab, 007/ATL
- Tuesday, January 29
Summer Internship Panel, Orfalea College of Business Students
Learn tips and strategies for landing a summer internship!
4 - 5:30, University Union 220

Career Services

Division of Student Affairs
Cal Poly, Building 124
805-756-2501

www.careerservices.calpoly.edu

- F** Wednesday, February 13
Interview Skills Workshop
11 - noon, Career Services, 124/224
- E** Tuesday, February 19
Resume Clinic
Bring your resume to have it reviewed!
11 - noon, Career Services, 124/117
- R** Thursday, February 21
Biotech Industry Career Day
Panel 1 - 2, Networking 2 - 3:30, PAC Lobby
- U** Wednesday, February 27
Working Lunches - Gen Y: Navigating a Multigenerational Workplace
noon - 1, Career Services, 124/224
- A** Thursday, February 28
Architecture & Env. Design Job Fair
Networking 10 - 1, Interviews 2 - 4:30
Chumash Auditorium
- M** Wednesday, March 5
Working Lunches - Job Offer Ethics: Accepting & Reneging Offers
noon - 1, Career Services, 124/224

All Quarter

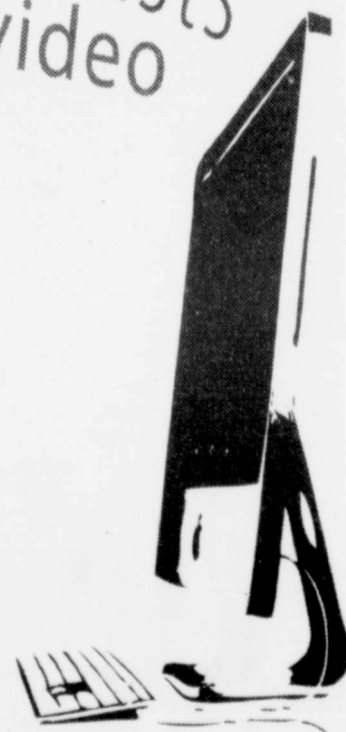
Need a job? Logon to my.calpoly.edu & click on Mustang Jobs to:

- Sign-up for On-Campus Interviews for career, summer & co-op positions - Interviews begin January 28!
- Find out about Company Information Sessions. Information Sessions begin January 28 and are open to all students!
- View the list of employers coming to the job fairs. See the job descriptions and RSVP for the event!
- View job listings for career, co-op, summer, local part-time or on-campus jobs!

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Geeks Rule



COURTESY PHOTO

"Girls Gone Geek," a weekly online technology show, both re-defines and embraces geekiness from a feminine perspective. Above: the hosts of "Girls Gone Geek."

Michelle Norgan
MUSTANG DAILY

"Girls Gone Geek" is a popular new technology show that lets women explore their own interests in technology. Somewhat like a potential offspring of "The View" and the G4 television network, the show is a hybrid of feminine talk show and technical know-how. In a world where most technology shows are made by men for men, this show finds a way to break the mold.

Dealing with traditional technology categories as well as areas such as health, fitness, beauty and entertainment, "Girls Gone Geek" is a weekly half-hour audio podcast available on the Podango network at <http://girlsgonegeek.podango.com>. Listeners can also interact through the show's Web site and blog, located at <http://girlsgonegeek.tv>.

"We take traditional categories that are associated with women and look at them with a technology angle," said Staci Degagne, one of the show's five hosts.

Degagne said this ability to look at everything from the most attractive new stopwatch to use while running to software and games means that the show can appeal directly to women and their approach to technology.

"Women look at technology differently than men in some respects," Degagne said. "A lot of the podcasts you hear that are created

by men and aimed toward men are about trading specifications, whereas women, although they are into that a little, want to know 'how is this applicable to my life? How can I use this in a productive way?'"

One of Degagne's favorite episodes was when one of her co-hosts brought together her hobby of cross-stitching and technology. Playing off this idea that women look for technology's pragmatic uses, her co-host took images from the Web and, after altering the photos into a low-resolution image, made them into cross-stitch patterns.

"It shows this old-world hobby that is traditionally done by women and how she blends technology in a very cool way to make unique pieces," Degagne said.

The show aims to make technology seem much more accessible to women, and the hosts employ the term "geeky" to describe the varied ways in which they use technology.

"We've tried to redefine geeky a little bit," said Liana Lehua, a co-host on the show. "Geeky would be whatever we are passionate about."

Lehua, who describes herself as having the most traditional background in technology with previous jobs in the industrial technology field, said they address topics on the show that the hosts are interested in exploring. Since the

hosts share ideas in a weekly meeting, this means that sometimes the women will also get to delve into new topics.

Among their shows, Lehua mentioned several that included more fun and different topics than those that might be seen on other shows. One included a segment that featured karaoke machines, which Lehua (a big fan of karaoke) said was a great show that dealt with the hardware as well as the entertainment end of the machines. Another was a segment that explored several Web sites that highlight techniques to get rid of a creative block.

"We wanted to find a way to talk about things that might seem too geeky or not geeky at all, and we needed to make it so technology seems more accessible," Lehua said.

Lehua said that part of the show's mission is to help women feel confident in expressing their own desire to learn about technology and their passion for it. They want to not only inspire women to feel confident in being a geek but to inspire men as well. Their show focuses more on women because of the five female co-hosts and because they feel women are mainly ignored in this area.

"A lot of women are scared because they think that they can't grasp the concepts (of technology)," Degagne said. "I think everyone is capable; it just takes a little

bit of effort."

Both Degagne and Lehua touched on the fact that the show is meant to appeal to people with varying levels of technology experience. The hosts of the show themselves reflect this array of experience levels.

"With our show, you don't have to be a geek to listen," Degagne said. "We are called 'Girls Gone Geek' because we are women trying to be geeks. We are trying to represent all types of women, and we're a learning environment."

With this in mind, the girls will

host a free podcast-production seminar on Jan. 14 from 1 to 5 p.m. at San Francisco State University. The event will be sectioned into two parts: "Geek Out! A Podcasting How-To" and "I'm a Geek, You're a Geek, We're All a Bunch a Girl Geeks."

"This is an awesome way to empower and inspire our audience to 'go geek,'" Degagne said in a press release. "By offering tips on podcast production, they too can share and talk about their interests ... and whatever they want to 'go geek' about."

Sushiya Japanese Restaurant
Sushi Bar Teppan Grill

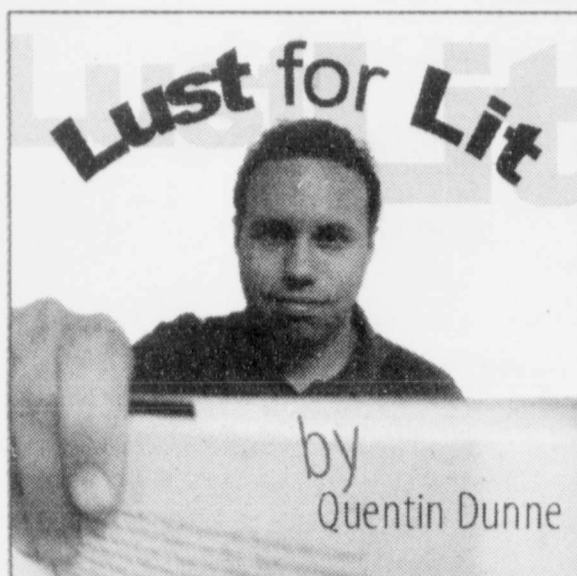
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Everyone has their reasons

Novelist-screenwriter David Benioff creates eclectic characters and absorbing stories in his collection of short stories, 'When the Nines Roll Over & Other Stories'



Given the increasing prevalence of hyphenates in the entertainment field — actor-photographer-author, singer-actor-painter, and so on — in which proven accomplishment in one area allows for vain indulgence in others, it's both refreshing and heartening to see a genuinely multitalented multitasker emerge. Such is the case with novelist and screenwriter David Benioff, author of both the book and the film "The 25th Hour," the Brad Pitt epic "Troy" and the short story collection "When the Nines Roll Over & Other Short Stories."

Comprised of eight short stories, the collection offers an eclectic gallery of

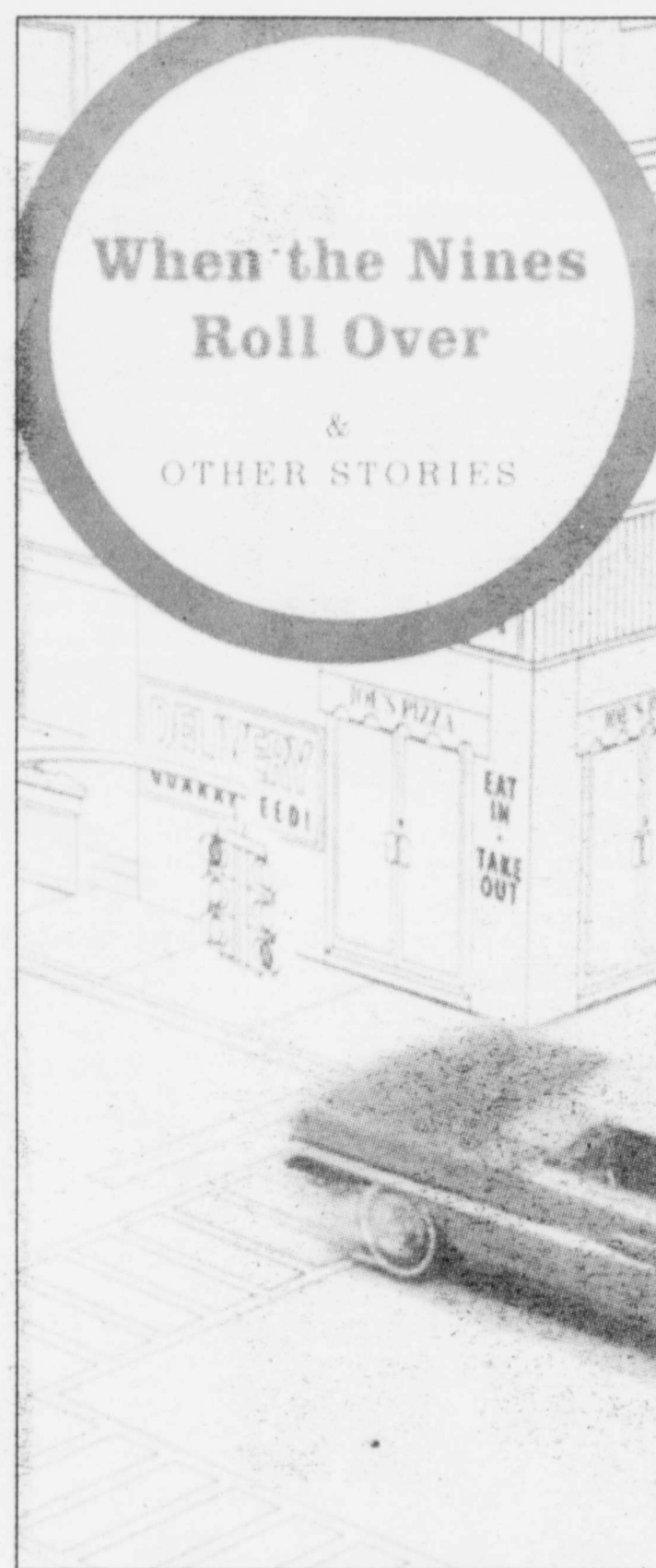
characters and situations ranging from a record company talent scout wooing a singer away from her band to a man who becomes increasingly fascinated with the legend of his girlfriend's late father to a trio of Russian soldiers in Chechnya, from a pair of gay lovers dying of AIDS, and so on. Though there are no formal or thematic links between the stories, all appear to have been informed by Jean Renoir's dictum, "Everyone has their reasons." Indeed, Benioff's great strength as a storyteller is his ability to economically shade the emotions and explore the nuances of all his characters. Some may be more honest than others, some more selfish or even more mentally disturbed than others, but everyone has their reasons.

The stories' prose tends to be fluid, lean and direct. Benioff knows how to put a sting into a sentence and has a gift for metaphor, but he's not a stylistically flashy writer; he would rather absorb than dazzle us as we enter the characters' worlds. The one exception to this approach is the darkly humorous "De Composition," a tale which will have you initially wincing that a few typos made their way into a published book before realizing they're part of a skillful narrative strategy and essential to the story's memorable punchline.

Benioff is not always above the *de rigueur* twist ending (that's really not that much of a twist) which has plagued many an otherwise fine short story. But he never gives in to either forced or easy irony, preferring instead to highlight the emotional weight and psychological implications inherent in the twist in a way that's both honest and empathic. Nowhere is this truer than in "The Barefoot Girl in Clover," the ending of which centers upon a briefly mentioned, almost trivial, incident earlier in the story, the significance of which neither the story's narrator nor reader can fully comprehend until it's too late. With a magician's sleight of hand, Benioff deftly transforms a poignant, simple and seemingly complete story into a complex and haunting tragedy all in the final two paragraphs.

With two books and four screenplays (including the psychological thriller "Stay" and the recent screen adaptation of "The Kite Runner") to his credit, David Benioff has proven himself a worthy hyphenate. But, please, no art exhibits or albums next.

Quentin Dunne is a psychology graduate student and Mustang Daily book reviewer.



COURTESY PHOTO

THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS



WOMEN'S HOOPS

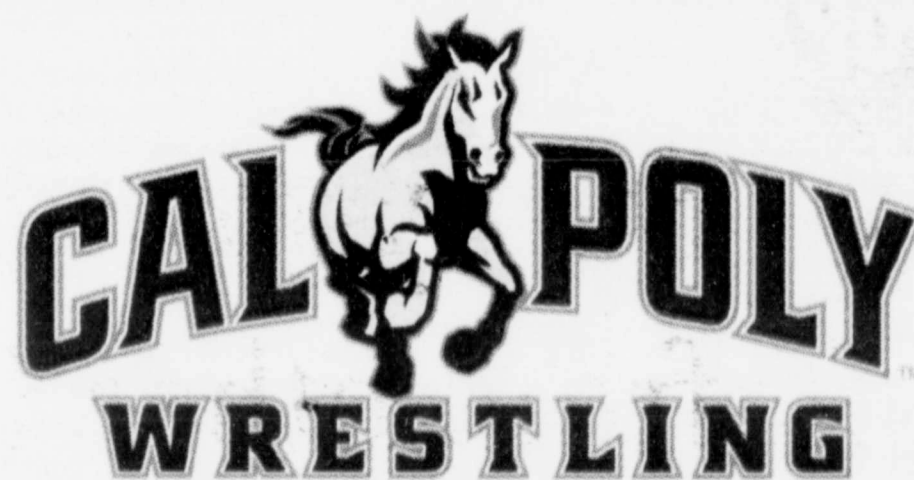
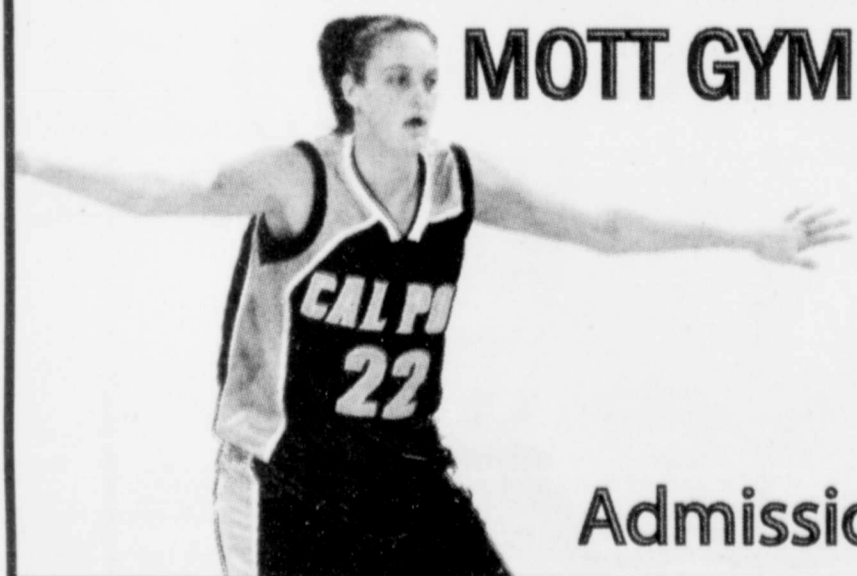
VS. FULLERTON

THURSDAY - 7 P.M.

VS. UC IRVINE

SATURDAY - 4:00 P.M.

MOTT GYM



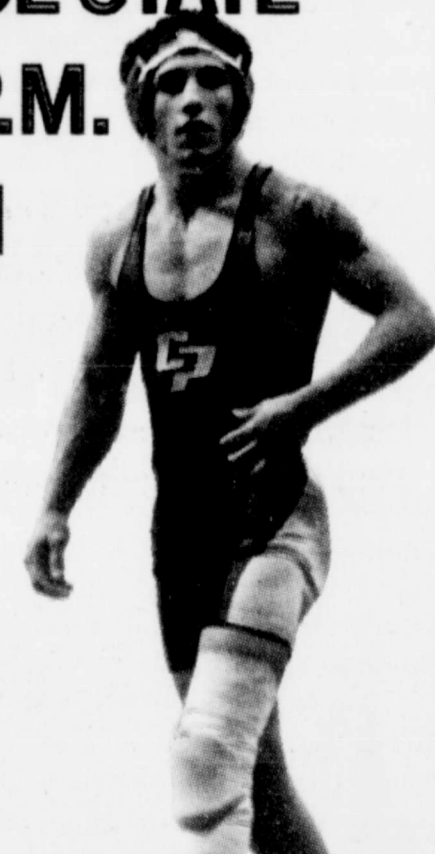
CAL POLY VS. ARIZONA STATE

FRIDAY - 7:00 P.M.

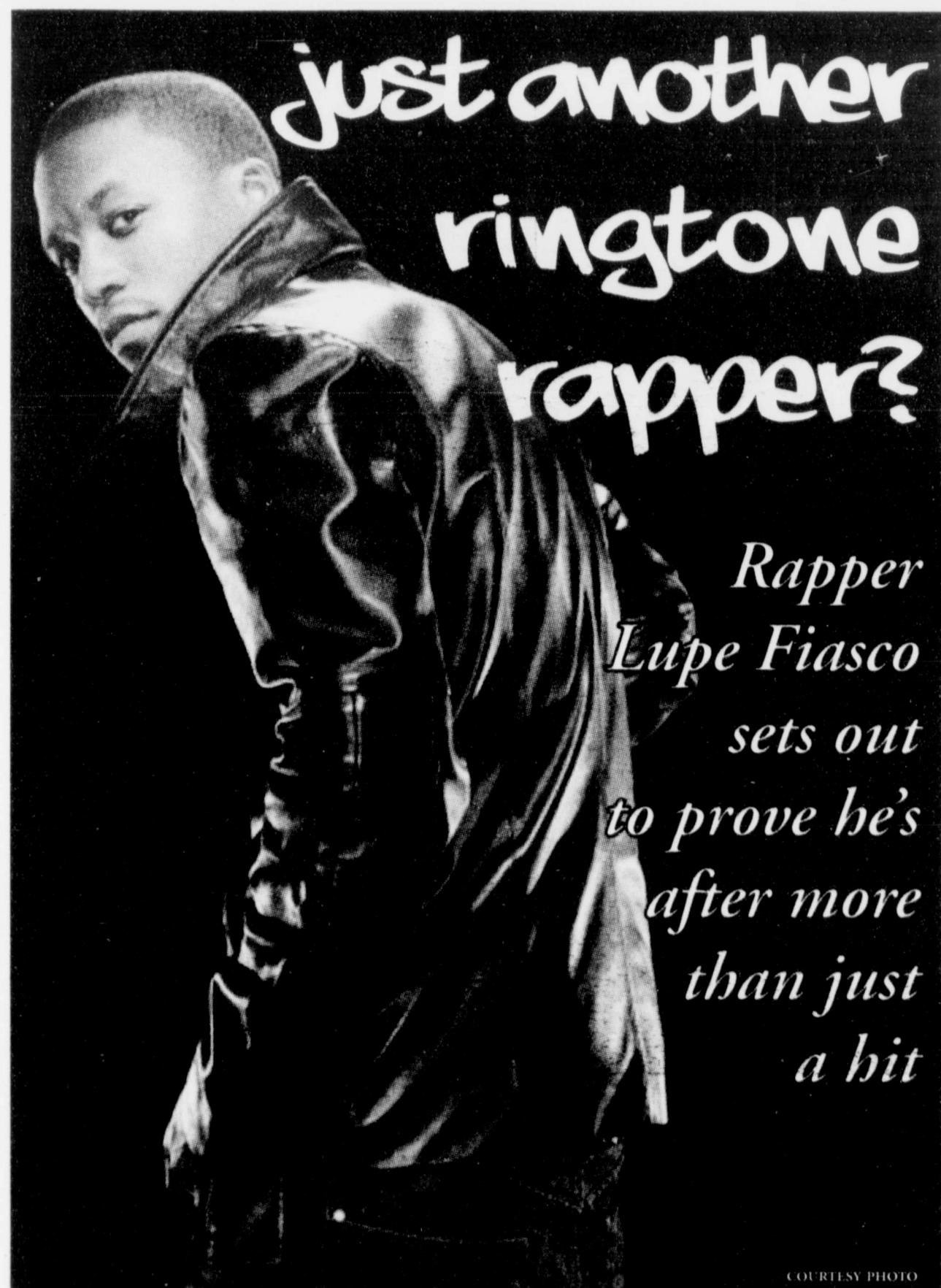
CAL POLY VS. BOISE STATE

SUNDAY - 2 P.M.

MOTT GYM



Admission is FREE for all Cal Poly Students



Keith Jenkins
THE NEWS RECORD (U. CINCINNATI)

The year 2007 was one of the rise and dominance of the "ringtone rapper" — one who can't manage to put together a quality album from beginning to end. They formulate a sing-song single that garners an annoying amount of airplay and earns the artist the highly coveted Master Ringtone Sales Award, in which the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) recognizes the artist for a high amount of ringtone downloads.

While ringtone-rapper Soulja Boy earned a Grammy nomination for his single "Crank That," 2006's GQ "Breakout Man of the Year" Lupe Fiasco's sophomore effort "Lupe Fiasco's The Cool" gives hope that in 2008 rappers won't sell their souls to create the next hottest ringtone.

Inspired by the song "The Cool" from the lyricist's 2006 debut album "Lupe Fiasco's Food & Liquor," "Lupe Fiasco's The Cool," among other concepts, advances the story of a hustler who is killed but comes back to life, digs himself out of his grave and ventures back to his old neighborhood.

Lupe once again digs into his bag of tricks, finding brilliant metaphor after metaphor and challenging listeners to do just that — listen.

Of the 19-track album, Lupe uses five to explore the tale of the resurrected hustler "The Cool." "The Cool," creatively enough, is married to a temptress and seductress named "The Streets."

Lupe pushes the boundaries of music even further by bringing in different sounds and genres rarely linked to that of hip-hop.

After a thought-provoking and poetry-filled intro by Iesha Jaco, the same young lady who opened the "Food & Liquor" album, and a soulful interlude, Lupe opens with "Go Go Gadget Flow."

Here, the Westside Chicago native pays

homage to the Windy City by switching up his flow to the rapid-fire rhyming style that so encompasses that of the region. The record showcases Lupe's vast ability and introduces even his most hardcore fans to a new side of him.

"Hello/Goodbye" is the emcee's rock 'n' roll singing debut. The track features and is produced by Unkle, a London-based hip-hop, techno and DJ group. The eclectic track is an unexpected, yet hit-table, curveball.

Perhaps the most lyrically complex song on the album is "Dumb It Down." The record pairs three over-the-head verses with a hook of the exact opposite. Lupe almost pokes fun at himself as he is repeatedly asked to "dumb down" his music because he is not reaching enough people. The comical yet impressively done track finds Lupe rebelling against the "ringtone rapper."

This time around, don't expect an album executively produced by Jay-Z or even a verse from the hip-hop veteran. There is no beatsmith work from Kanye West or Linkin Park and Fort Minor's Mike Shinoda. Songstress Jill Scott will not be on the next single and there is no skateboard.

Besides an appearance from Snoop Dogg on the track "Hi-Definition" and production from Fall Out Boy's Patrick Stump on "Little Weapon," Lupe sticks to lesser known acts to accompany him on the album; the majority of which are from his 1st & 15th Productions record label.

Compared to the debut, "Lupe Fiasco's The Cool" is much darker from the overall concept of the album to such topics as death, the outcasts of society and children in war.

True hip-hop music is alive and Lupe proves it with every passing track. According to the 25-year-old emcee, his next album "LupEND" will be his last. Until then, don't overdose on "The Cool."



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write a letter

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mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

By mail:
Letters to the Editor
Building 26, Room 226
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corrections

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

notices

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January 8, 2008
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Mustang Daily

"I want to take her out to In-N-Out!"

MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Editor in chief: Kristen Marschall
Managing Editor: Ryan Chartrand

mustangdaily@gmail.com

www.mustangdaily.net

8

2008: A happy new you!

With 365 days in the year, why should we choose Jan. 1 to start improving ourselves? My question to those that wonder this is why not Jan. 1? Although we have 365 chances to better ourselves and accomplish our tasks, the first day of the year serves as a clean slate for us to throw out the mistakes of last year and start fresh. Perhaps you didn't get the best grades of your life last year, or maybe you would like to take better care of your body by eating healthier and working out more.

According to our good old friend Socrates, "we cannot live better, than in seeking to become better." Well, why not start today? To help your progress, I have outlined a few tips for you on how to make your New Year's resolution a successful one.

Choose a goal

When setting your goal, think "yearround" instead of the first couple of weeks. Choose something attainable that you think you can stick to throughout the year. It's better to set goals that are realistic, achievable and well defined. Many people make resolutions that are either unrealistic or too vague. For example, if you set out to lose 20 pounds in one month and don't reach your goal, you feel discouraged and give up after only a couple weeks.

Create a plan

After you have figured out an achievable goal, the next step is to create a plan. Setting a goal without devising a plan is simply wishful thinking. Making a clearly defined plan is very important for succeeding. You may strive to lose one to two pounds per week by exercising three to four times per week and holding off on seconds. Nothing big gets accomplished in one day. Resolutions are set in one day, but they are accomplished with a hundred tiny steps that happen throughout the year. New Year's resolutions should be nothing more than a starting point.

Start now

It's also important to create your plan IMMEDIATELY. If you are like most people, then you have a limited window of opportunity during the first few days of January to harness your motivation. After that, most people lose inspiration and forget their resolutions completely.

Write it down

Now is the time to write down your reso-

Check your PULSE

by Sarah Bailey



your goal and try a different approach.

Be positive

Instead of obsessing over the foods you feel you should deprive yourself of, focus on the things you want to increase in your diet, such as fruits and vegetables. This puts your resolution in a positive light and makes you more likely to succeed. It is hard to maintain motivation for not doing things. It's much more rewarding to focus on what we are going to do. If you don't do well on your new plan one day, don't beat yourself up; that won't solve anything and you will only leave yourself feeling even more discouraged. Tomorrow is a new day full of possibilities to turn it around and make even more improvements.

To make a successful lifestyle change requires knowledge, time and commitment. Leaping into a change before doing the necessary preparation is another recipe for failure. Rather than expecting ourselves to make a change right away, we can instead learn about what we need to do to make a successful change. Whether your goal is to take a multivitamin daily, floss your teeth more, run a marathon, start weightlifting, stalk people less on Facebook, start eating breakfast, join a club on campus, or whatever your goal may be, the point is the more specific you are, the more likely you will stick with it. Good luck and have a happy, healthy new year!

Sarah Bailey is a nutrition senior, a Mustang Daily nutrition columnist and a member of PULSE. E-mail her your questions at slbailey@calpoly.edu.

Brainstorm barriers

Next, think of the possible obstacles that could get in your way of meeting this goal. For example, if you want to drink less alcohol, what major temptations can you expect? How will you get around those people or situations that in that past have made you want to drink too much? Think ahead to an actual conversation that may transpire. Also, think of activities you would like to substitute for the times you would have usually gone out drinking. If you are armed with all the right tools, you will make yourself succeed at any goal you get out to do. If you find that you are not meeting your expectations, perhaps you need to modify

Don't let proposal redesign California politics

Aaron Richardson

DAILY BRUIN (UCLA)

You may have heard some ruckus lately over how California's electoral votes are to be counted this election. A man named Dave Gilliard is pushing a petition to divide California's electoral votes by district, with two votes going to the winner of California's popular vote.

If you're a Democrat, this means losing approximately 20 electoral votes to a political party that has supported one of the most unpopular presidents in American history.

If you're a Republican, you probably feel as though you've been ignored in California because your voice is not reflected when all 55 votes go toward the opposing candidate, even if the split among voters was 54-44 as in the 2004 election.

But objectively, this proposal will

do exactly the opposite of what its supporters claim. It will make California almost insignificant in presidential elections. There will be approximately five "swing districts" in California, reducing our state's electoral influence to that of New Mexico. In a close election, the winner-take-all allocation in California means that a small shift in the voting could win a candidate 55 votes.

Under the proposed system, the best a candidate could hope to swing would be five votes, assuming he managed to individually win each district.

However, if there was a close election in Ohio or Florida, a candidate stands to win 20 or 27 electoral votes by a two percent change in the state's popular vote. If a candidate has to choose to spend resources to win either California's five contested votes or 20 or 27 votes in another state, it's clear that California will be ignored in

favor of the other state.

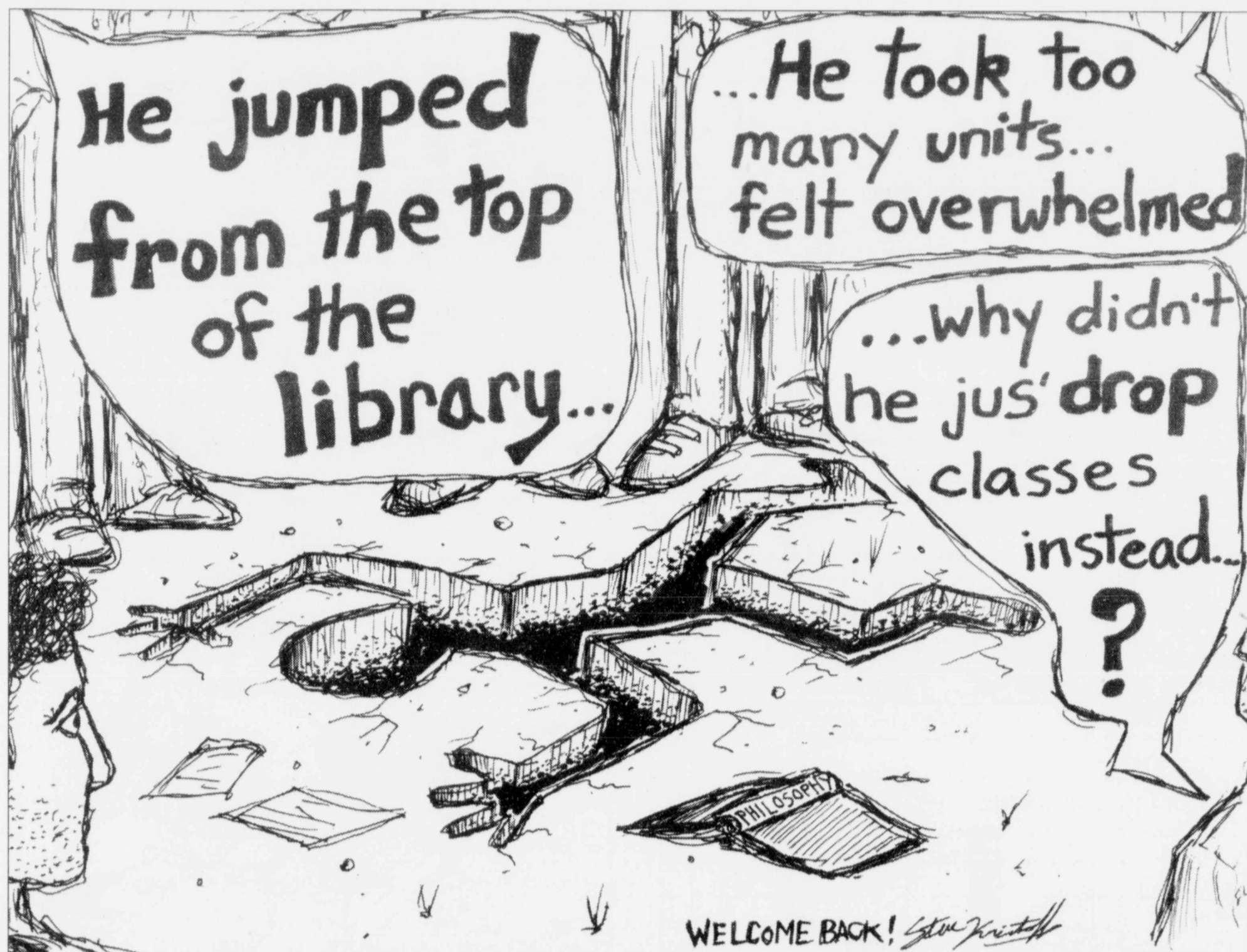
Furthermore, by dividing the votes by district, Gilliard also opens up the presidential election to the corrupt political practice of "gerrymandering." Gerrymandering is the practice of drawing up districts to disenfranchise one group of voters for the benefit of another set of voters. Traditionally, this has been done either to potentially disenfranchise racial minorities, as in Illinois's 4th District, or to combine two geographically distant but politically similar neighborhoods, as in New York's 28th District. This practice already corrupts the elections of the House of Representatives, and the proposal would now lay the effects of those practices on presidential elections as well.

Finally, this proposal is only fair politically if it is implemented across all states, including Republican strongholds such as Texas. There is a National

Popular Vote Interstate Compact being led by Maryland, which states that if enough states agree to allocate their electoral votes proportionally to how their population votes, then all states in the compact will do so as well.

However, the Republican Party has resisted any and all attempts at instituting a national popular vote across all states because it winds up with less support overall. Instead, the Republican Party has resorted to the traditional playground tactic of selectively altering the rules of the game just so they can still be the winner. And Americans are rightfully upset.

In short, endorsing this measure and putting it on the ballot will not only help destroy California's strength in Washington, D.C., and in presidential elections, but it will also endorse political strategies that manipulate the laws of our state and country explicitly to benefit one political party.



STEVE KRSTOFF MUSTANG DAILY

Remembering Bhutto

Staff Editorial

HARVARD CRIMSON (HARVARD)

The tragic assassination of Benazir Bhutto rocked both Pakistan and the world. An articulate, charismatic, Harvard and Oxford-educated leader who was the first female elected leader of a Muslim nation, Bhutto has been eulogized by the international media as a saintly figure who was Pakistan's greatest hope. Yet while there is no question that her death was an unfortunate event that has thrown Pakistan into disarray, Bhutto was not the panacea that many remember her as or wanted her to be.

As prime minister, Bhutto was a reformer and a strong advocate of women's rights. While in office from 1988 to 1990 and again from 1993 to 1996, she dramatically reduced Pakistan's budget deficit, undertook widely acclaimed privatization programs and encouraged foreign investment. Her efforts in many areas, such as women's rights, were often hampered by traditionalist opponents, but she left an indelible mark on Pakistani politics and was beloved by many.

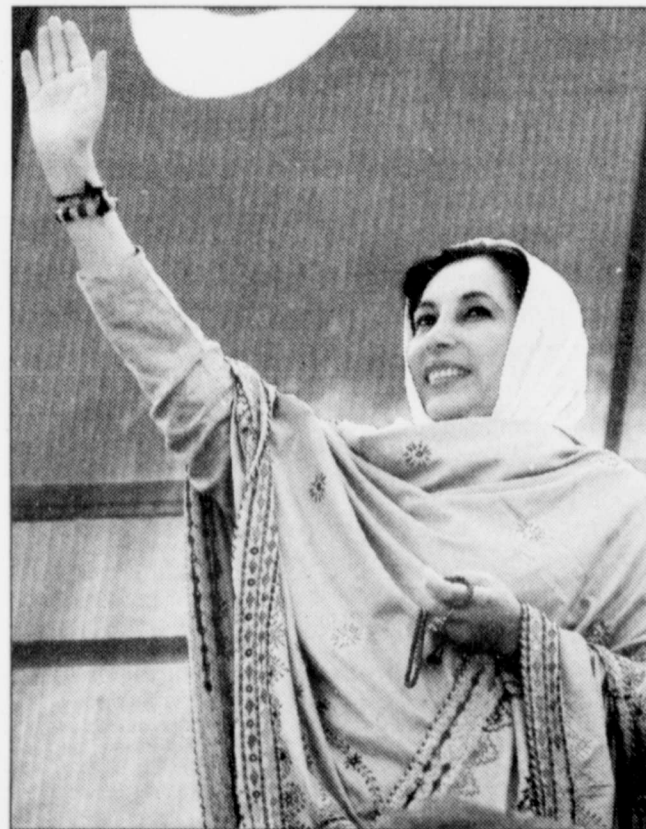
But her tenures were also marked by rampant corruption and her failure to carry through more ambitious reform. Her government was twice dismissed because of accusations of corruption. The rings of bribery, patronage and money laundering centered on her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, who garnered the nickname "Mister Ten Percent" due to his cut on all government contracts. In 2004, Swiss magistrates found both Bhutto and Zardari guilty of money laundering. Other evidence has amassed in France and Poland indicating extensive investments and shady

deals. In one striking case, Pakistani investigators reportedly found that a gold dealer deposited \$10 million in one of Zardari's accounts for exclusive trading rights in Pakistan. The total extent of the corruption may still lie in shadow.

Perhaps Bhutto truly would have revived Pakistan's democracy, which has been on life support under President Pervez Musharraf. And perhaps she would have been the best prime minister for both the Pakistani people and the interests of the United States. But given her track record, it is naive to think that Bhutto would have quickly and single-handedly turned Pakistan around.

Pakistan is a country in extremely dire straits, and given its tradition of corruption, nepotism and violence — of which Bhutto's assassination and the ascension of her 19-year-old son and husband to the leadership of her Pakistan Peoples Party is just the latest chapter — there is no clear path forward. Bhutto was, at most, the best of several mediocre alternatives. Her assassination should not cast her political career in a rosier light.

Yet the past week has seen the continual distortion of Bhutto's life by politicians and media desperate to make her death fit their agenda. Musharraf's government has sought to deflect criticism by denying an autopsy and investigation and blaming her recklessness and radical militants for her death. In America, presidential candidates have used the assassination as a platform to talk up their experience on foreign policy and national security issues. Even on the Harvard campus, Harvard Right to Life has begun a campaign against the legality of gender-selective abortion in the United States in Bhutto's honor,



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto waves to her supporters Dec. 24, 2007, three days before her death.

even though the distasteful practice is virtually nonexistent in this country, and advocating for its abolition in South Asia was but a tiny portion of Bhutto's career and message.

It's wrong to make Benazir Bhutto into a patron saint for every cause and to ignore the more uncomfortable lessons of her life. These are dark times ahead for Pakistan, but the memory of Bhutto would be best served by honesty.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following letters were received after the Mustang Daily had finished publishing for fall quarter. The dates of their submission have been included for clarification purposes.

Dear Mustang Daily: (Dec. 3)

Your comics suck somethin' awful.

Let's get something with maybe a shred of humor.

Chris Ray

Landscape architecture freshman

What happened to America? (Dec. 9)

After hearing of the killings at the mall in Nebraska, I couldn't help but think that the young man responsible could've been someone you knew. So many young people have had terrible childhoods and are expected at 18 or 20 to get a job and just get over it. Having been a "welfare kid" as a child, I could relate to feeling like you are a burden. It is interesting that we, that is our leaders, focus on some things to solve and other things just are ignored or pushed under the proverbial rug. The problem of dumping kids out of foster homes onto the streets without community or family support is something that actually has gotten some interest lately. But it receives nowhere near the amount of interest generated by, say, the potential dangers of Iraq.

Our own country is so full of problems that are ready to blow up in our faces literally. Yet, we pursue the problems of another country vigorously. My dentist, who is Korean, said, "What happened to America?" Indeed, that is the question. I think our leaders do not offer any good example of idealism. They are the worst of us usually. They are found to be a great disappointment, morally, intellectually and strategically. I would say that no one decent wants to be president. I am suspect of anyone who would want the job actually. Look at the difference between speeches of FDR or John Kennedy and then look at Mitt Romney or Barack Obama. It is some kind of money game. No wonder kids are depressed and see themselves and others as pieces of shit, pardon my slang.

Until people are valued more than money, we will continue to have depression that erupts into violence in our country.

Maryanne deGoede

Agriculture education graduate student

have something to say?

let us hear it. 250 words or less.

mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

COMICS & GAMES

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1016

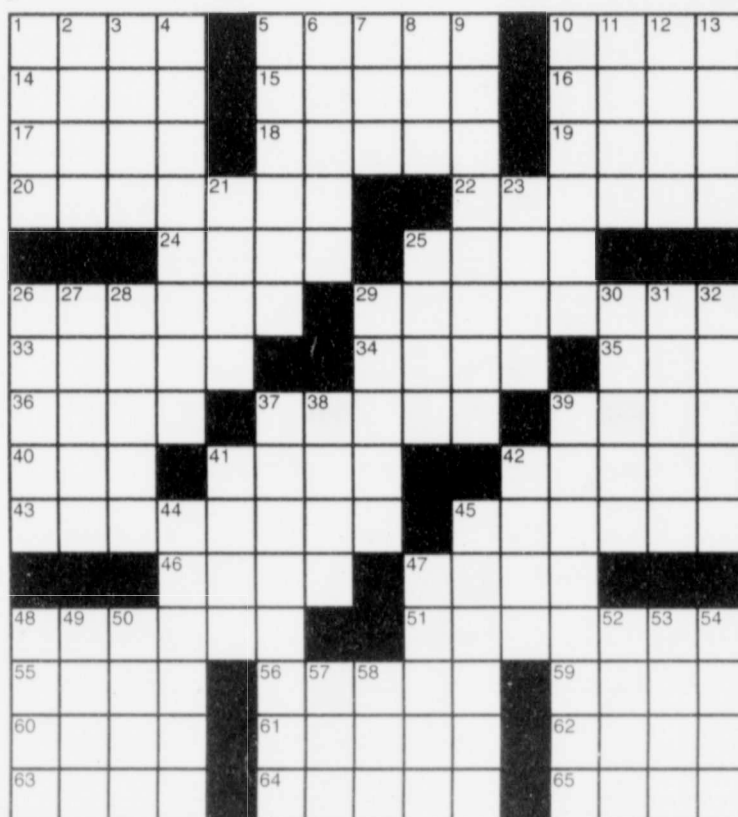
- ACROSS**
- With: Fr.
 - Milkshake item
 - In ____ (together)
 - Hawaiian port
 - "The Devil Wears ____"
 - Get better, as a cut
 - State with conviction
 - Drive away
 - Artist Bonheur
 - Historic Boston neighborhood
 - Wiggle room
 - Loads and loads
 - Gush
 - Totaling
 - Comedian who created the character Jose Jimenez
 - Manipulate
 - Burden of proof
 - Half a sch. year
 - Toll unit on a toll road
- DOWN**
- What "yo mama" is
 - Cover for a wound
 - Plop oneself down
 - "Are you ____ out?"
 - Gem of an oyster
 - Ailment that may cause sneezing
 - Go by, as time
 - Wolf's sound
 - Jump named for a skater
 - Empty, as a lot
 - Auxiliary wager
 - Composer Stravinsky
 - Some Apples
 - Say yea or nay
 - Line of stitches
 - Modern assembly line worker
 - Love god

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SITASPELL ADELE
APOLLOXII RELAX
PARTYGIRL MACYS
INT TRIPE ASP
DASANIS SOD PAO
LOC ATT AINU
STRATEGIC ROUTES
WHENI WAS YOUR AGE
ARBITRON RATINGS
PEES ALE SIG
SAL APB ATEALOT
EDA ASRED AZO
AKRON ELDESTSON
TIMID ALLSEEING
STYLE KEEPSAKES

- "The Thin Man" dog
- Les ____ -Unis
- Mardi Gras follower

- Melville captain
- Start of a Spanish cheer
- Util. bill
- Sound-absorbing flooring
- Helped bust out, as from prison
- Cards above deuces
- Séance sound
- Juice drink
- Where to get juice for a household appliance
- Astute
- "Man, that hurts!"
- Astronaut's insignia
- Potter's medium
- 007
- Slithery fishes
- Ireland's ____ Fein
- Covered with water
- The South
- River mouth feature
- Word that can follow the first words of 20-, 29-, 43- and 51-Across and 4-, 9-, 37- and 39-Down



Puzzle by Paula Gamache

- B.M.I. rival
- Draws nigh
- Mosey (along)
- Winter traction provider
- Lounge
- Death Valley is below it
- Computer image
- Appealed earnestly
- Greg's sitcom partner
- Is
- English race place
- Document checked at a border
- Matures
- Jacket
- Bloviator, often
- Princely prep school
- Bon ____ (witticism)
- Lawyer's org.

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$34.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.



When Walt Disney Company Tom-Foolery Goes Too Far

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

2	6			7			1
		4	9		6	8	3
9			5	3			4
4				8		5	3
		9				6	
	7	8		6			4
	1		4		5		7
6		7	1		2	4	
3			6				9

V. EASY

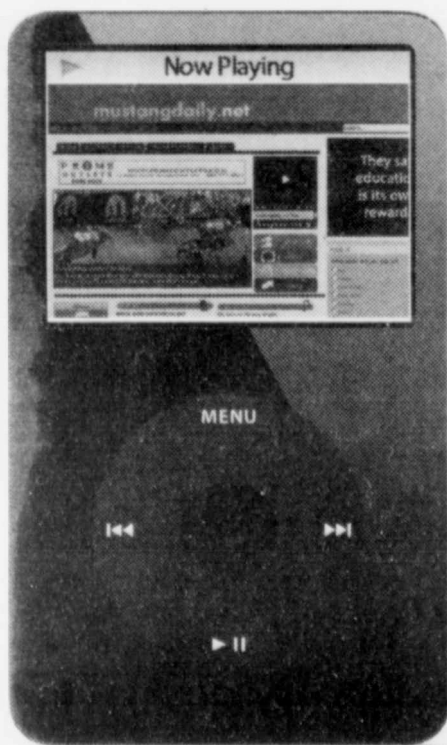
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Playoffs

continued from page 12

these debates is a 16-team playoff. I know it sounds shocking and impossible, but in actuality it's the only viable solution.

Scrapping the BCS in favor of a playoff is not akin to tearing down the Berlin Wall, as the media leads us to believe. It's more like changing the Electoral College, a daunting task that remains in spite of mounting evidence of how outdated the system is.

No, tradition is not the issue. The root of the problem is that the conferences, schools and bowl sponsors make a killing from the bowl system. Ultimately, we all are painfully aware of how strong the power of the almighty dollar is.

Only with a 16-team playoff will a champion be crowned the way every other team-sport champion in this country is, including those from over-40 slow-pitch softball leagues with playoffs. The best part about it is — and listen to this — it will make money, much more money than the current system is raking in.

The BCS bowls just signed a four-year deal with FOX worth \$320 million. To compare, the NCAA men's basketball tournament's deal with CBS is 11 years, for \$6 billion. There

is money to be made with a playoff system in the TV deals alone because football is much more popular than basketball.

The 16 participants would be made up of the 11 Division I conference winners, plus five at-large teams to be determined by an expert panel, à la basketball. Rankings would be determined using the BCS formula.

This would assure that any undefeated school from a non-BCS conference would get a shot at the national championship. This year's cast would have been Hawaii, BYU, Central Florida, Central Michigan and Troy State.

Part of the appeal of March Madness is the upset factor; the first weekend is my favorite time of the year. Now think of how cool it was to see Boise State win last year, and imagine how thrilling a first-round upset in the college football playoffs could be. Would any of those teams have done that this year? Maybe not, but I sure would have watched to find out.

If not, second-round dream match-ups could have been USC vs. LSU and Ohio State vs. West Virginia, among others. I don't know who would continue on after that, but the beauty of the system is that in the end, the two best teams would be left standing without controversy.

Now, I don't want to hear anything about players' safety and education. If

that's a concern, shorten the season back to 11 games and then have the playoffs, the system currently used at the Championship Subdivision and Divisions II and III.

Players would still have two weeks off for finals at the beginning of December while still allowing the season to finish within the first couple of weeks of January. The lost revenue from home games for non-playoff teams could be made up in a shared-revenue deal from the lucrative TV deals. And you could still use the bowl games. There were 32 bowls this year, nearly all of which had zero relevance on the national title picture.

Nothing has to change. The first round of the playoffs could be home games for the top seed, which gives advantages to schools that succeeded with tougher schedules. The seven remaining games could be cycled between the BCS bowls and three other New Year's Day games.

This appeases the top bowls because they still host great games and get a chance to make more money from the increase in interest. The rest of the bowls could still pick from the also-rans, with the only difference being that they serve as minor distractions until the college football playoffs resume each weekend. And if a few bowls fell by the wayside, would anyone notice?

This scenario is so appealing be-

cause it satisfies everybody: players, coaches, schools, the bowls and most importantly, the fans. The BCS National Championship is already the second most-watched sporting event in the country. Under this system, it would rival the Super Bowl because America can't get enough football.

After this unprecedented season of upsets, I'd like to believe the college football chief honchos will come to their senses. Unfortunately, it seems

change will only occur when the fans unite in their frustration and hit the powers that be where it hurts — in their wallets.

Until then, each college football season will end the same, with an anticlimactic "championship" leaving fans disappointed and wondering what could have been.

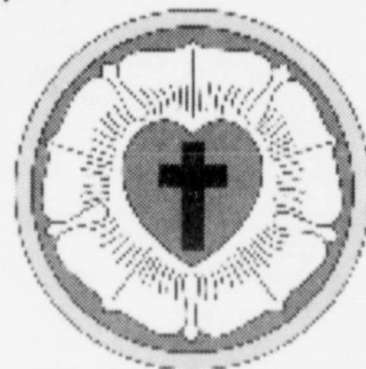
Kory Harbeck is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily reporter.

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7. Enjoy a cafe-like setting.
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2. Join with friends.
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Join us each Wednesday evening at 6:00 in the Zion Fellowship Hall, near the corner of Foothill and Santa Rosa.

A contemporary worship follows at 7:00 p.m.



For more information, visit www.zionslo.com or call 543-8327

BCS

continued from page 12

LSU became just the fourth favorite to win in 10 BCS championship games.

Coach Les Miles probably got a little extra satisfaction, too.

Though he turned down a chance to return home to Michigan, he did something his alma mater hasn't done recently — beat the Buckeyes.

The loss left Ohio State at 0-9 overall in bowl games against teams from the Southeastern Conference.

The SEC delights in whipping Big Ten teams in what's

become a rivalry that steams up fans on both sides.

The Tigers rallied from an early 10-0 deficit, taking a 24-10 lead that held up.

Two big plays on special teams kept them ahead — they blocked a field goal, and later took advantage of a roughing-the-kicker penalty.

Flynn hit Doucet with a 4-yard toss with 9:04 left for a 31-10 lead and celebration was on in earnest.

The Buckeyes made the score more respectable on Todd Boeckman's 5-yard TD pass on fourth down to Brian Robiskie, only to have Flynn come back and throw his second TD pass to Richard Dickson.

As the clock wound down, Boeckman threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Brian Hartline.

A note from the sports editor

For a thorough recap of what's been going on with Cal Poly sports since the break, be sure to check out Wednesday's sports section, and for previews of both basketball teams' Big West Conference games against Cal State Fullerton, Thursday's sports pages.

BARTENDER TRAINEES NEEDED

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LSU claims national championship

Tigers end season of surprises by doing the expected

Ben Walker

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — Too easy.

No. 2 LSU danced, dodged and darted its way into the end zone Monday night, turning the BCS national championship game into a horrible replay for No. 1 Ohio State. It was over early, with Matt Flynn throwing four touchdown passes in a 38-24 win.

Playing at their home-away-from-home in the Big Easy, LSU (12-2) became the first two-loss team to play for the title. Shouts of "SEC! SEC!" bounced around the Superdome as the Tigers won their second BCS crown in five seasons. They are the first school to win a second title since BCS rankings began with the 1998 season.

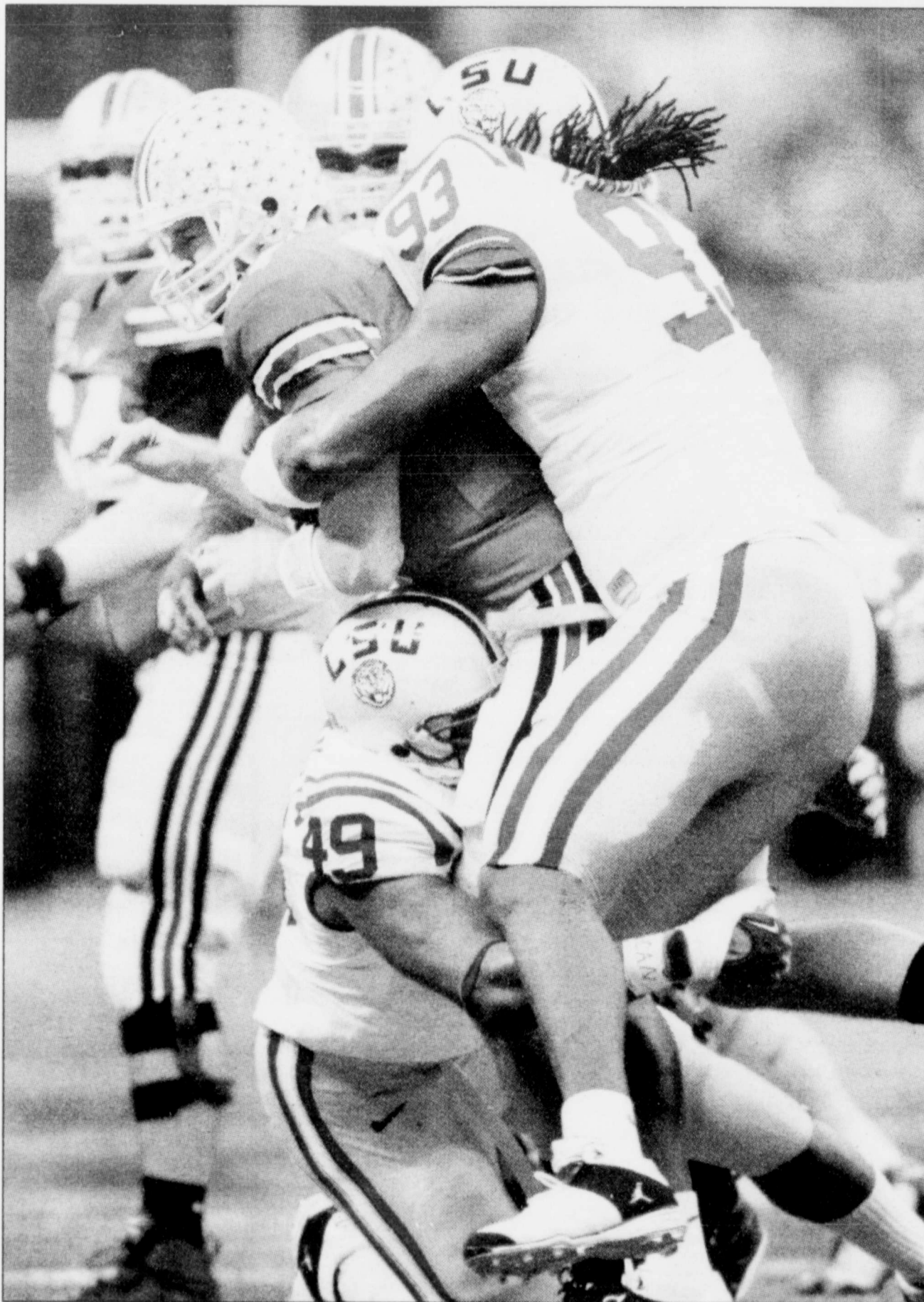
And in a season of surprises, this was hardly an upset: Ohio State once again fell apart in college football's biggest game. A year after the Buckeyes were routed by Tim Tebow and Florida 41-14 in the Arizona desert, they barely did better.

Jacob Hester bulled for a short touchdown, Early Doucet wiggled loose for a touchdown and All-American Glenn Dors-ey led a unit that outplayed the top-ranked defense in the nation. Ohio State (11-2) had little to celebrate after Chris "Beanie" Wells broke loose for a 65-yard TD run on the fourth play of the game.

Yet while LSU got to hoist the \$30,000 crystal trophy, certainly many fans around the country were peering into their crystal balls, wondering if someone else was worthy of the title. Southern California, Georgia, West Virginia, Kansas and Missouri all put on impressive shows in bowl games, and will be among the favorites in 2008.

The final Associated Press poll was to be released early Tuesday.

see BCS, page 11



LSU defensive ends Tyson Jackson (93) and Kirston Pittman (49) join forces to crush Ohio State quarterback Todd Boeckman in the first half of the Tigers' 38-24 win.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

STAFF COMMENTARY

Playoffs would be a real payoff

Kory Harbeck

MUSTANG DAILY

As I sat down to watch the BCS National Championship between Ohio State and LSU last night, I couldn't help but feel disappointed that no matter how great the outcome, the result would still leave me unsatisfied.

Does anyone in the country — fans and so-called experts (based on the analysts' predictions of bowl games this year, their knowledge has been seriously called into question — pardon me for digressing) alike — think that these were the two best teams in the country? I don't think so, especially not in certain parts of California, Georgia and West Virginia.

And while debating the merits of each team's case is entertaining, it dismisses the credo of competition that tells us the answer will eventually emerge from the field. Until the bowl system and athletic directors nationwide suck it up and change the current system, fans of college football will be left with a never-ending stream of hypothetical what-ifs.

So what is to be done? Everyone seems to have an opinion: the plus-one system, an eight-team playoff or, most infuriatingly, that the bowl system is so soaked with tradition that even though changes should be made, they won't.

If this esteemed tradition is so sacred, then why has every bowl sold out to the sponsor phenomenon? How prestigious can a system that produces the Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl really be?

But the best scenario I've heard during

see Playoffs, page 11

Barden contemplates soon turning pro

Donovan Aird

MUSTANG DAILY

While most of the country has watched the college football season play itself out, Cal Poly's leading receiver has spent much of the time considering getting an early start on his professional future.

Ramses Barden, who has recently been named to several Football Championship Subdivision All-American first teams following his junior season, could declare his NFL Draft eligibility soon, he said Monday.

"Right now I'm gathering as much information as I can, and learning what (possible suitors') impressions of me are, all their critiques and that kind of stuff," Barden said. "It's about what I want to do for my future, my family and my team. Those are all things weighed in the decision."

The 6-foot-6, 228-pound school record holder for receiving touchdowns in a game (four), season (18) and career (32) said that so far, he's been told he could be chosen anywhere from the second to fifth round, depending on workouts and a possible scouting combine invitation.

Listed at nearly 230 pounds, Barden could possibly be viewed by some talent evaluators to project to the next level as a tight end, and while the Altadena native says he would be comfortable doing whatever a team asked, he feels his strengths are in playing apart from the offensive line.

"You take advantage of whatever opportunity you get," Barden said. "But as far as what I believe, if you were to line up two columns (for wide receiver and tight end) for what my strengths are, it'd be one-sided, all at receiver."

Although he said he hasn't specifically prepared to be officially timed in a 40-yard dash, the NFL's most widely valued straight-line speed barometer, in "a long time," Barden said he believes he would be clocked around 4.55 seconds, usually fast enough for a wide receiver.

As Barden ponders his decision, the Mustangs offense has welcomed back a familiar face.

Ian Shields, Cal Poly's co-offensive coordinator from 2004 to 2005, was hired as the Mustangs' offensive coordinator, head coach Rich Ellerson officially announced Monday, about three weeks after former offensive coordinator Joe DuPaix accepted a position coaching slot backs at Navy.

Before head-coaching Eastern Oregon to a 7-15 mark over two seasons, Shields, along with DuPaix, oversaw a Cal Poly offense that averaged 27.2 points per game in 2005 as the Mustangs reached the quarterfinals of the FCS playoffs.

A season ago, Cal Poly implemented a triple-option scheme that produced an FCS-best 487.1 yards per game, and 39.3 points per game, sixth in the country.

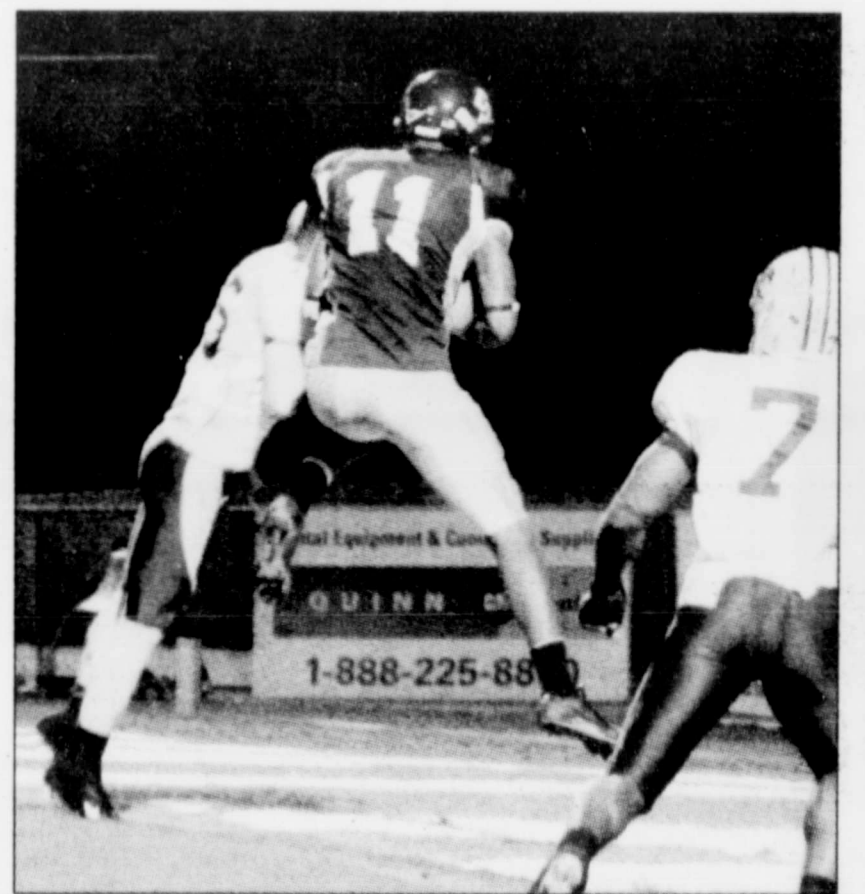
If Barden elects not to turn pro, he would figure to be one of 10 offensive starters returning for the upcoming season.

"I'm sure hoping (Barden returns)," Shields said. "He's a special talent, and we want what's best for him."

Regardless of what Barden decides, Shields' return is a welcomed one, Barden said.

"I'm sure when he left he got more of his own niche and (playcalling) personality," Barden said. "He can add his own flair here. He knows everything about our system."

Shields, who said his offensive philosophy has generally



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Ramses Barden, above, scores against North Dakota State on Nov. 10. He had an FCS-best 18 touchdown catches in 2007.

started with the run, voiced being ecstatic about his unit's outlook.

"It's a good problem to have as a coach, with a lot of weapons at our disposal," he said.

Barden, perhaps the most formidable of them, said he expects to have his decision made by Jan. 15.